

April 2, 1981

LB 125

SPEAKER MARVEL: The bill is declared passed with the emergency clause attached. Ready for LB 125.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion on the desk.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Read the motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Vard Johnson moves to return LB 125 to Select File for a specific amendment, that amendment being to strike the enacting clause.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, yesterday we advanced Senator Beutler's constitutional amendment to eliminate Final Reading unless it was specifically requested by an individual member. Some of the arguments that were mustered against that particular amendment were that Final Reading per se gives members an opportunity and the time to again look at a bill and to again think about whether or not they wish to support or to oppose a bill. LB 125 is such a short bill that even though it will be on Final Reading it will be read and the few seconds it will take to read it we will not have adequate time to again reflect on the quality of our action. And it's for that reason, for that reason, that I have moved to return this bill to Select File for an amendment, the amendment being to strike the enacting clause, i.e. to kill the legislation. As you recall, LB 125 is a bill that tells all governmental units in this state, not only the State of Nebraska, but all governmental units in this state that they may not provide public dollars for insurance coverage for their employees and their employees' dependents for purposes of an abortion. Now you and I have discussed the legislation on General File and on Select File, and I have thought again today that there really are no new arguments that can be made either for or against the legislation. We have heard it all. But one of the things I have done is I have passed out a letter to you from a nurse that I have known for a number of years, an Omaha nurse. It seems to me a thoughtful piece on the subject and it seems to me that this nurse gets to what I think is one of the critical issues in the area of abortion legislation, and that issue very simply is whether our continuing expungement, so to speak of abortion from the public dialogue, that is our continuing attempt to make certain that in no way will public forums, public tribunals and public organizations provide any kind of support for abortion whether that in the